

Gromyko sounds warning note on Nato missiles

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was caught on the hop by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko at the end of their talks in Bonn.

Mr Gromyko, out of the blue, publicly said that there would be no question of talks on reduction of medium-range nuclear missiles if Nato were to decide to update its missile system.

Herr Genscher immediately called a meeting of advisers to consider this unexpected development.

Mr Gromyko, a confidant of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and politbureau member, had by no means been so direct behind closed doors in Bonn.

But maybe that was because diplomats and politicians often do not ask questions as straight out as journalists did at his 23 November press conference.

It has since been learnt that he told his opposite numbers in Bonn, including Chancellor Schmidt, a straight story too. This was evident from the increasingly gloomy nature of the scant news that filtered through about the atmosphere of the talks.

In the final communiqué there was merely a mention of the various talks



Nato summit as the Bonn Government still hopes.

To judge by the facts, as publicly available, the Soviet Union has not the slightest intention of taking lying down a Western decision to station Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in Europe.

It is to continue manufacturing and stationing its own SS-20 medium-range nuclear missile and to press ahead with production of the Backfire bomber.

So Moscow's twofold strategy in recent weeks has been to make America's partners in Europe feel at least uneasy and to make them out to be responsible for continuation of the Continental strategic arms race.

What makes Bonn so confident that Moscow, despite a Nato decision to go ahead with nuclear modernisation, remains prepared to hold immediate talks on medium-range missiles?

For the time being it is hard to see what can possibly justify any such assumption. It is certainly not borne out by anything Mr Gromyko had to say.

Yet leading West German politicians were saying only a few days beforehand that the Soviet Foreign Minister would refrain from jawboning Western Europe

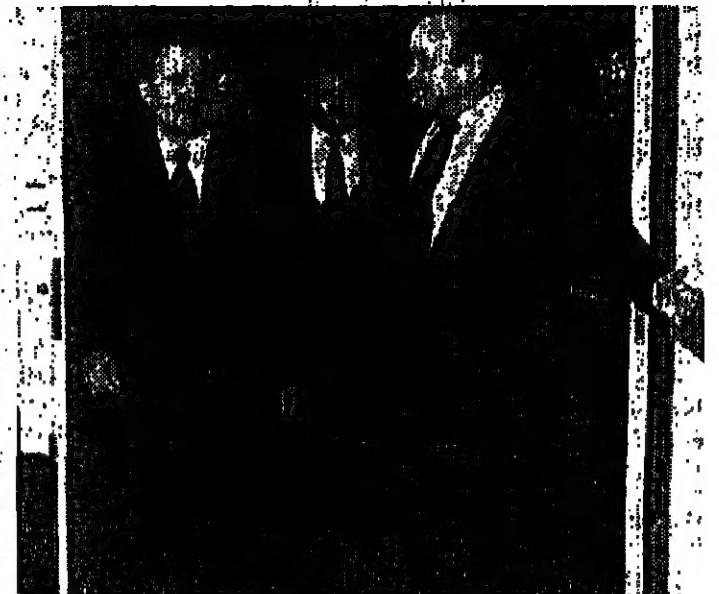
in Bonn. The Russians are realists, and as the great power with the greatest leeway for action at present they have no need to curry favour with Western Europe. They certainly have no reason to make life easy for the Social Democratic party conference, to be held in West Berlin from 3 to 7 December.

The Social Democrats face the problem of having to endorse a disarmament resolution that practically amounts to a decision to rearm.

There is no earthly reason why Moscow should save delegates' consciences with the good news that the Kremlin is delighted with the whole idea.

Seasoned tactician Gromyko's Bonn lecture has already had results. Left-wing Social Democrat Erhard Eppler has termed the stationing of new medium-range missiles in Germany a "provocation of the Soviet Union."

Pressure on the Dutch Government has been stepped up too, while in Denmark it has again been suggested that it might, perhaps, be better to postpone



Before the storm broke: Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko (left) in Bonn with the West German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher. (Photo: Bundeshildstelle)

a final decision on the stationing of missiles for a further six months.

Yet the world's longest-serving Foreign Minister is well aware that the Soviet Union is even less capable than the West of keeping up the current suicidal pace of the arms race.

In the end the two sides will have no choice but to get together and come to terms on a limitation of the grey zone malady.

But, always assuming they succeed in arriving at a reasonably acceptable compromise, when are they going to do so and how long will it take?

Eghard Mörbitz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 November 1979)

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A city centre to live in

We all need somewhere to live, quality of life, and since Berlin was declared an architectural heritage and urban renewal pilot city in 1975 restorers have been busy face-lifting Wilhelminian wrinkles and the chief conservation officer has been listing and salvaging characteristic, handsome facades. Safeguards for the quality of urban life and retention of the city centre as somewhere to live are major tasks for the future. The 1984 Berlin International Housing Exhibition will help to solve them.

Berlin is facing the challenge of drawing up exemplary concepts of housing. In 1980 the largest urban renewal programme in Europe will enter its third phase. 150,000 of Berlin's 450,000 older apartments will be demolished and 300,000 modernised. For further information contact: Press and Information Office 46/79, Rathaus Schöneberg, 1000 Berlin 62.

BERLIN

having taken place in an "enlightened spirit" and been "useful." That was surely the least that might have been expected.

Before the talks the story current in Bonn was somewhat different. It was self-confidently asserted that Moscow had practically come to terms with the Nato decision.

A number of pundits even went so far as to claim that Mr Gromyko had brought with him an offer by the Kremlin to cease production of the dreaded medium-range missiles if the West were prepared to negotiate the number of its proposed counter-missiles.

If, on the other hand, Mr Gromyko's comments to correspondents in Bonn are taken at face value the West is not going to cut such a fine figure after the

Bonn is still working on the assumption that Moscow will be prepared, even after the Nato decision to modernise medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, to hold "grey zone" disarmament talks with the West.

Until the North Atlantic Council meets in Brussels in mid-December there will no doubt be further polemics along the lines of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's 23 November Bonn press conference.

But no-one seriously expects the door to be closed on negotiations, to judge by a review of Mr Gromyko's visit made for and referred to Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher after hints from diplomatic circles.

In confidential talks with Herr Schmidt and Herr Genscher Mr Gromyko had taken care to keep the controversy over medium-range missiles within bounds and not to allow it to assume the proportion of the central problem.

People who took part in the Soviet Foreign Minister's official talks did not gain the impression that Soviet Policy was aimed flat-out at escalation.

Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss told the national conference of Junge Union, the Christian Democratic and Christian Social Union youth wing, he had been given to understand much the same.

Bonn confident Moscow will still talk

In private the Soviet Foreign Minister had sounded a much quieter and more level-headed note than in his forthright public statements.

Immediately before flying home Mr Gromyko stressed in a final conversation with Herr Genscher that talks had been held in a cordial spirit.

He attached special importance to the inclusion in the final communiqué of the Soviet invitation to the Chancellor and his Foreign Minister to visit Moscow.

It is announced in Bonn that Herr Schmidt will be taking up the invitation soon and expects to visit the Soviet capital early next year.

Bonn envisages the further course of Nato deliberations as follows. The North Atlantic Council will approve the missile modernisation programme on 12 December, then the United States will make the Soviet Union a Western negotiation offer.

Bonn reckons soundings on the

West's disarmament proposals could begin even before Salt 2 is ratified.

Talks are to get under way promptly to encourage the Vienna MBFR troop-cut talks and preparations for the Madrid CSCE follow-up conference.

Social Democratic disarmament expert Alfons Pawelczyk is all in favour of synchronising bids to rearm and to disarm: "In my opinion Nato must stand by its intention of drafting clear negotiation proposals.

"They must make it clear that European Nato countries are prepared to allow US-developed medium-range nuclear missiles to be stationed in Europe.

"But it must also be understood they are only prepared to do so on condition that the decision to base these new missiles in Europe is scrapped entirely or in part provided arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union achieve satisfactory results."

Asked whether he felt Mr Gromyko's jawboning would have any effect on the Social Democratic party conference, Herr Pawelczyk said:

"I am working on the assumption that a conference majority will endorse the resolution on Security Policy in a Peace

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Pilots threaten action over smaller crews in new aircraft

Pilots from seven European airlines are ready to down tools over what they claim are potential reduced safety standards.

Whether the dispute goes ahead depends if the airlines involved decide to take delivery of the new medium-haul Boeing 757 or 767 or the Airbus A 310.

The airlines are Lufthansa, KLM, SAS, Sabena, Air France, Alitalia and Iberia.

The dispute stems from the fact that the new aircraft need two pilots only. The third man, the flight engineer, would, according to the new idea, not be needed. His function would be taken over by electronic instruments and computers.

More than 600 pilots and flight engineers will travel to Frankfurt to demonstrate on 11 December. At a rally at the Canadian Pacific Hotel they plan to state their professional aims in public and also ask the public for understanding for possible strikes during the holiday period.

This unique event is being organised by Europilots, the European branch of the World Air Pilot Association, which has 55,000 members.

The protest is clearly directed against the Airbus A 310 and the American medium range Boeing 757 and 767, now under construction.

Viktor Jaumig, president of the



Cockpit Association and a Lufthansa Airbus pilot says categorically: "Once the flight engineer's job has been rationalised out on these three planes, the safety range in future civil aviation will be reduced to a level which is not acceptable and for which flying personnel can no longer take responsibility."

"A study by the Dutch pilots' association shows that the level of supervision in two-man crews is 90 per cent. during the normal flight and but rapidly sinks in abnormal situations to 10 per cent."

"Even if there are a 'only slight' irregularities, supervision is the first thing to be neglected, that of the airspace, radio, technology and of other crew members."

"With a three-man cockpit crew supervision in normal situations is 100 per cent. and in exceptional situations 50 per cent."

"We are striking for the safety of passengers and for progress in world aviation. And to ensure that no European companies benefit from the strikes which may be necessary, the strikes will hit all airlines, including charter traffic."

The European air industry faces losses of millions if the company bosses cannot reach agreement with the pilots.

A joint meeting between German Lufthansa flying personnel on the one hand and the board and chief pilots on the other last week revealed total disagreement.

Martin Gaebel, chief pilot and director of flights at Lufthansa, called upon his colleagues to give up their resistance to technological progress.

He said in an interview with the *Deutsche Zeitung*: "We will not be reducing safety one millimetre if with this new technology we eliminate or reduce human error which is after all the reason for 80 per cent of all air accidents."

"It has been proved that the CityJet, the Boeing 737, which flies with only two-man crews in Europe and America, has the fewest accidents per flight hours, even though it starts and lands far more often than planes with three-men crews."

"Airbus Industrie is to design a two-man cockpit for us to test whether a two-man crew can fly this new plane safely, efficiently and without too much stress for the individual crew member."

"If the National Aviation Office gives the go-ahead and if our own research proves favourable for the two-man cockpit concept, then this plane will definitely be flown by two men. Otherwise, the three-man crew will be retained."

"The technological development of Airbus A 310 is going in such a direction that the flight engineer, at least in his role as a highly qualified expert in the cockpit is being made dispensable at least as far as systems supervision and trouble-shooting are concerned."

"If it should nonetheless turn out that a three-man crew is necessary, we will have to reconsider the tasks and qualifications of the third crew member."

Gerhard Frühe, recently elected director and member of the Lufthansa Board, backs DC-10 pilot Gaebel to the hilt: "The board is not going to sacrifice one jot of passenger safety for the sake of the DM50m a year we could save by getting rid of the flight engineer."

"If, despite everything, we cannot find jobs for flight engineers in the new planes there will be no social problems

for this group. I can even envisage them being retrained for higher jobs. We do not want to repeat the example of the stoker on the electric locomotive in Lufthansa because the underemployment syndrome is depressing for all affected."

However Hans Bernhardt, spokesman for the flying members of the Public Service and Transport Union (ÖTV), says: "The aviation section of the ÖTV decided on September 10, 1978 to reject the introduction of two-man cockpits in the Airbus A 310 and other large planes on the basis of the information now available. It wishes the present system of two pilots and one flight engineer to be continued."

Heinz Auth, one of the most influential advisers of ÖTV leader Klaus Klüncker, and a former Jumbo jet pilot, rejects the two-man cockpit for two reasons.

Technical and safety reasons

The third man is, so his argument runs, urgently needed on board not only for technical and psychological reasons, but for safety reasons. This is also the opinion of about a thousand Lufthansa pilots.

Sickness and sometimes even death of crew members during flights are becoming increasingly frequent in international aviation, he says.

One thing is clear: the physical and psychological strains on pilots have become so great that many experts cannot understand why the airlines want to replace the flight engineers by a technology which has not yet been fully tested and which would mean more work and more responsibility for the pilots.

The work load of pilots is constantly increasing because of larger planes, longer hauls, worse flying conditions. The flow and density of data in the cockpit gets more frightening, the technology increasingly sensitive. Pilots cannot simply share this increasing responsibility with a computer.

Dieter Rivolt
(Deutsche Zeitung, 16 November 1978)

BUSINESS

Gold supply remains stable despite predictions

Vorwärts

Assuming a gold supply this year of 1,900 tons, it becomes obvious that private demand plays a key role.

In the two previous years, this accounted for 500 tons a year.

It remains to be seen what effect the gold price explosion will have on private investors. Incidentally, the demand for processing purposes is more likely to stagnate than increase.

Speculation and hoarding will dominate this year. The gold price remained unchanged for more than 100 years before, 20 years ago, beginning to soar.

On 18 July 1979 it for the first time passed the barrier of \$300 an ounce. Exactly a year ago gold was still traded at \$185.40. I see no plausible explanation for this development.

True, man has always had a special attitude towards gold, and an international expert, Walter J. Glaser, said in an interesting study on the reasons for the runaway gold price: "If only market forces applied and if we could discount man's mystic attitude towards gold, this would be an uninteresting metal so far as price fluctuations are concerned."

"It is a peculiarity of this commodity that the annual demand is covered by the world-wide supply (banks, commerce, industry and hoarding) estimated at 80 times the annual production... a ratio that does not exist with any other metal."

The South Africans were well advised to keep up their Kruger and production, because in the months to come the gold coin business will boom.

The Americans are still unhappy about the unstable dollar, but they are happy now that, at the end of 1975, their country lifted the ban on the private ownership of gold that had existed since 1934.

Frenchmen can point out with pride that France is the only country always to have kept gold — not hoarded it — in private households.

A journalist wrote recently: "The Bundesbank values its gold (3,600 tons) in its balance sheet at the dollar exchange rate of 10 years ago, showing under 'assets' DM13.7 bn for gold. In

Alex Möller, a former Social Democrat Finance Minister, outlines the background and prospects of today's boom commodity.

Gold production in the non-communist world in 1978/79 was 968 tons, about the same as the previous year.

Figures released by the Bank for International Settlements, based in Basel, Switzerland, show that South Africa, the biggest producer, mined 706.4 tons during the year, compared with 699.9 the year before.

According to reliable estimates, the Soviet mines in Siberia produced about 450 tons.

Despite the higher output in South Africa and several smaller producers in South East Asia, overall figures remained the same because African and North American sources were less productive.

The supply of gold thus leaves little room for speculation, which is primarily influenced by the shifting of the metal and sales by the IMF and the US Treasury.

The four-year period in which the IMF is to auction off one-third of its gold reserves will be over in about a year, and it is unlikely that there will be a sufficient majority voting for a sale of the remaining reserves.

Speculation at the beginning of the year that the supply of gold would increase sharply proved to be without foundation.

One of the main reasons is that the US Treasury decided to sell only 750,000 ounces a month instead of 1.5 m.

It is likely that Soviet Union earnings equalling those from last year's sales will be achieved with much smaller quantities and that they will therefore not increase the market total unless the USSR wants to obtain more foreign exchange.

The price development of gold is determined by the volume of sales of the producer countries and the monetary authorities plus industrial and private demand.

Estimates of industrial demand for 1978 operate on the assumption that the jewelry industry will need 1,050 tons, electronics 80 tons, dentistry 70 tons and the remainder of industry another 70 tons, making a total of 1,270 tons.

In addition, there are the requirements for coins, medals and decorative purposes, estimated at 250 tons.

Continued from page 5

the United States. More and more companies are coming up with a sabbatical for their executive staff. After seven to 10 years with the company, they can take several months off.

Labour unions and employers in the Federal Republic of Germany have so far shown little interest and understanding for a working time system that would provide the individual with more scope.

CDU politician Norbert Blum has lashed out at the sarcasm with which proposals for the introduction of a sabbatical year and other forms of a more liberal working time system have met, calling it "a testimony to the unimaginativeness of a bigoted society."

Michael Jungblut

(Die Zeit, 15 November 1979)

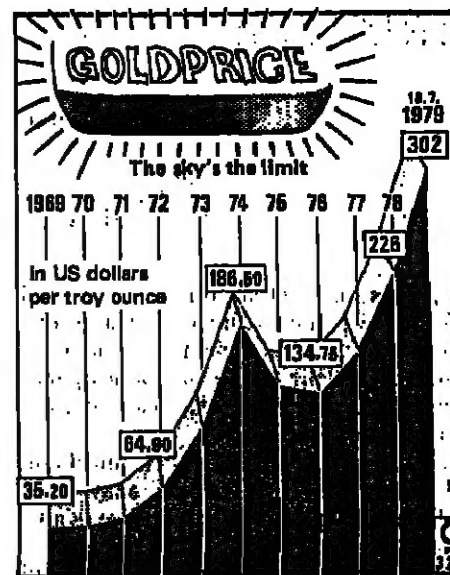
reality, its gold reserves are worth DM80 bn."

Another newspaper expressed satisfaction at the fact that, of the European currency units so far spent under the European Monetary System, 18 bn were based on gold and 11.3 bn on dollars.

Let us hope that the oil sheikhs will prove the really big gold buyers because this would cause them less worry about what to do with their oil earnings.

Some experts recommend stock of selected gold mines as the more interesting proposition for new investments than the direct purchase of the metal because there is now old stock on the market which is valued on a gold price basis of between 200 and 300 dollars.

Gold bears no interest, but it is worth having even without it. Alex Möller
(Vorwärts, 15 November 1979)



Worries over international use of deutschmark

monetary authorities, where it now represents more than 11 per cent of reserves.

Notwithstanding all efforts, the Federal Republic of Germany has been unable to prevent this development because the United States has failed to do justice to its role as the reserve currency country — a role resulting from its dominant position in world trade after World War II.

The withdrawal of the pound sterling from its role as a reserve currency has also contributed to making the deutschmark a surrogate reserve currency.

But, according to the Bundesbank, no alternative reserve currency can replace the dollar's natural function as the Western world's main reserve currency.

Due to the limited capacity of German money markets the establishment or abolishment of deutschmark reserves — and indeed their mere shifting — must of necessity overtax these markets, warns the Bundesbank.

This would lead to undesirable liquidity and interest rate fluctuations at home, which could not always be compensated for.

As a result, the Bundesbank rejects the recommendation of foreign authorities to yield to the pressure of international markets and no longer oppose the establishment of Deutschmark reserves, accepting instead the deutschmark's role as a reserve currency and viewing this as an obligation.

Another disadvantage of a reserve role for the deutschmark is the exchange rate risk that this country would have to bear by the conversion of dollar investments into deutschmark.

A system of a basket of reserve currencies that would result from unbridled diversification would, according to the Bundesbank, not contribute towards the further development of an international monetary order but would be extremely unstable and thus neither realistic nor tolerable.

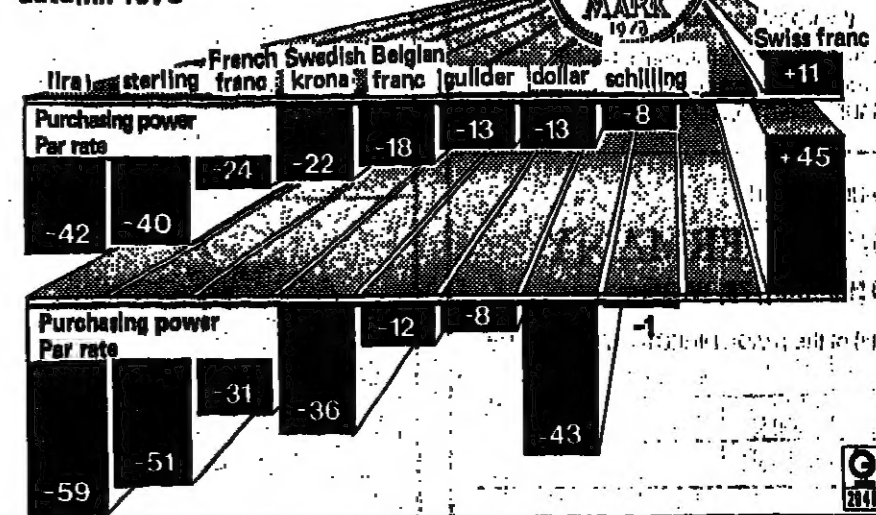
Moreover, this would not eliminate the main shortcoming of the present monetary system: excessive liquidity boosts from US sources.

For the moment, there is only one way out: The United States must once more become more credible in its role as the reserve currency country.

Claus Dörtinger

(Die Welt, 19 November 1979)

How they fared in comparison with the deutschmark between the end of 1972 and autumn 1978



■ NUCLEAR ENERGY

Processing plant runs on quietly as Gorleben uproar continues

Views may clash on the proposed nuclear fuel reprocessing and disposal centre in Gorleben but the existence of a plant which has been operating for the past eight years has gone virtually unnoticed.

Set up in the 60s by the chemical and oil industries, it is tucked away in a well-guarded pine forest north of Karlsruhe.

It is now a 100-per-cent subsidiary of the parent company set up by power utilities to run the Gorleben operation.

It stores and reprocesses fuel rods from seven nuclear reactors and, with its 40-tonne annual capacity, accounts for a nominal 20 per cent of the nuclear fuel used by West German reactors.

In comparison with the proposed capacity at Gorleben the Karlsruhe installation is a 1-in-40 miniature, but unlike Gorleben, which seems a dead letter at present, it is at least working.

Besides, the Karlsruhe plant employs a payroll a quarter of the size envisaged at Gorleben, so on this score it can more readily lay claim to fuller-scale status.

Out of a staff of about 400 roughly 300 do work more or less directly connected with the reprocessing of nuclear fuel.

Managing director Walter Schüller is none too enthusiastic about this ratio. Given the present payroll he feels it



would make more sense to double or treble the Karlsruhe handling capacity.

But it would still not be commercially viable, he adds. To break even, handling capacity would need to be about 10 times the present amount.

At present Germany's sole operational nuclear fuel reprocessing facility is running at a DM140,000-per-day loss.

Herr Schüller's comments were partly intended to dispel rumours that the Karlsruhe plant was to be enlarged to handle 350 tonnes of nuclear fuel a year as a temporary substitute for Gorleben.

This larger facility would then lay the groundwork for an eventual reprocessing and disposal centre four times larger.

Karlsruhe would be a most unsuitable location, he said. The city already had a nuclear research centre and the fumes it emitted ruled out further ventures of the kind.

This view was shared by the parent company. Besides, a 350-tonne facility would cost roughly 2½ times as much to run as the proposed 1,400-tonner, so it could hardly be recommended on economic grounds either.

So there was no ground for fears that Karlsruhe might unexpectedly emerge as

the fuel reprocessing centre of West German nuclear power stations.

Spent fuel rods reprocessed at Karlsruhe included those of the two Karlsruhe research reactors, Kahl, Gundremmingen, Obrigheim and Grosswiesenthal power reactors and the reactor of the Otto Hahn, the nuclear freighter now in mothballs.

But they were all smallish reactors with fuel rods not exceeding four metres in length.

New 1,200-megawatt nuclear power stations such as Biblis A and B or Philippsburg 1 have longer fuel rods that cannot be processed at Karlsruhe because its storage basin is not deep enough.

For safety's sake rods have to be covered by at least three metres of water. The Karlsruhe storage basin, designed to hold 35 tonnes of nuclear fuel, is only seven metres deep.

This limits the scope, but several costly construction projects are planned on the closely-guarded Stuttgart site.

Early next year work is to begin on a unit for recycling krypton, an inert gas that is released during reprocessing but in such small quantities that at present it is allowed to billow out of the chimney, albeit subject to safety controls.

A sum equivalent to the entire cost of the reprocessing plant so far, DM250m, is to be spent on an installation to set

highly radioactive waste in molten, French fashion.

Work is due to start on this facility in 1982, with completion scheduled 1986.

An air-raid shelter built to with direct hit in an air crash is to be trials. It will function as a storage for highly-radioactive liquid waste.

Herr Schüller is quick to deny suggestions that Karlsruhe, with its experience of handling fuel rods, be envisaged as an intermediate facility for radioactive waste, some of which will be required before long.

Plans were once drawn up to increase storage capacity from 40 to 100 t of nuclear fuel, he admits, but they were scrapped because of the lack of precautions to deal with a possible hit in an air crash.

These safety precautions are all provided.

There had been talk, in the '60s, of the nuclear waste disposal debate, dry storage facility that would acquire anything special by way of structure.

But here too there were no plans, the pipeline at Stuttgart.

Walter Schüller felt the eight-year processing plant had proved its worth. Scientists and technologists in Germany had a head's start on their counterparts elsewhere in observing clean air regulations in the process.

The Stuttgart research project should keep staff busy for another year or so, during which time (if longer) reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from smaller West German reactors should remain assured. Claus Dantsch (Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 November 1979)

■ ROAD SAFETY

Seat belts are dangerous, says surgeon No 1...



Making motorists wear seat belts is dangerous, says Wolfgang Herzog, an accident surgeon from Gummersbach, near Cologne.

Professor Herzog set up the country's first mobile emergency medical service at Cologne University Hospital in 1957.

In his view the legal obligation to use safety belts and thereby allegedly reduce the risk of serious consequences to a car crash is "unprincipled fostering of panic."

The 57-year-old surgeon cites in support of his claim an evaluation of 100 accidents of which seat belts were themselves the cause.

"Three of the six accident patients who have died while I was operating on them could still be alive today if they had not been wearing safety belts at the time of the accident," he says.

He argues his case in an article carried by *Medical Tribune*, an English-language journal published in Wiesbaden.

He calls on the Bonn Government,

for instance, to stop shirking the issue and take a clear and impartial stand.

He says the Government is taking shelter behind rulings laid down by courts that are not competent to reach a scientifically-based decision and behind the views endorsed by insurance companies.

"Unless lawmakers soon make a recommendation that can at least be regarded as a reasonable guideline, motorists will continue to be painfully uncertain where they stand."

It was high time a lobby consisting of ADAC, the Munich-based motoring association, and belt manufacturers was called to order.

Professor Herzog is not totally opposed to seat belts, but he does feel they have been a deathtrap in many cases he has investigated.

"In designing the belt the main idea seems to have been to protect the head," he argues, and he readily admits that the number of serious head injuries has declined, especially in head-on collisions.

But time and again belts are the cause of serious internal injuries. Most of these injuries are not immediately apparent.

Accident victims have been known to die of internal bleeding without having as much as a scratch.

... No they're not, and it's dangerous to say so, says surgeon No 2



The cause of death as long as I have no idea what would have happened if the victim had not been wearing one."

Professor Herzog also seemed to have little idea of the sequences in which drivers and passengers move in car crashes.

The Munich boffin claims international findings have proved that belts only cause serious injuries in fewer than 1 per cent of cases.

Take the current domestic trend, he argues. In the first nine months of 1979

The professor, who now works at Gummersbach municipal hospital, mentions a case in which safety belts were directly responsible for the death of two people.

With black ice on the road, two cars had collided side-on at 50km/h (30mph). One belted victim died immediately of a haemorrhage.

The other, who did not appear to have suffered much damage, died in the operating theatre after Professor Herzog had spent three hours trying to save his life.

He reckons one person in 16 involved in traffic accidents sustains injuries caused by a safety belt. Fastening that belt has only proved beneficial in 46 per cent of cases.

The decision to belt up or not should, he says, be left to the individual motorist.

Since the belt has certain drawbacks in specific accident situations the law cannot require road-users to protect themselves from head injuries while running the risk of internal injuries.

A West Berlin court has ruled that motorists driving to work who are injured in a car crash and are not wearing their seat belts stand to forfeit accident pay.

Professor Herzog feels this decision is absolutely laughable.

"Judges with a personal affinity to the safety belt are making too great play with their powers," he says. rtr

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 November 1979)

Top of league in child deaths, injuries

There is not a country in Europe to rival West Germany for the number of young people killed and maimed on the roads.

Between 1969 and 1978 their number increased by 31 per cent to 132,000 per year, statistics showing that 6- to 7-year-old children are the most frequent pedestrian victims.

They are usually involved in accidents as a result of mistaken behaviour in crossing the road, such as suddenly appearing from behind roadside obstacles to the motorists's vision.

Among cyclists the 12- to 13-year-olds are hardest-hit. The mistakes they make are disregarding right-of-way, wrong cornering and misjudging the attempt to enter the flow of traffic on the move.

Among 10- to 14-year-olds accident figures increased by 40 per cent during the decade under review. Among 15- to 17-year-olds the increase was 85 per cent.

So an all-party group of Bonn MPs have tabled a Bundestag question asking what measures the Federal Government has undertaken to stem the tide.

Transport Minister Kurt Gscheidle said Bonn was particularly keen to separate cyclists from other road-users. Between 1971 and 1976 a further 2,562km of cycletracks had been built alongside Bundesstrassen, or main trunk roads other than autobahns.

A decision had yet to be taken whether or not children of all ages should be allowed to cycle on the pavement. Older children, undeniably potential victims, tended to make the pavement unsafe for elderly pedestrians.

Bonn also plans to reduce the number of accidents involving cyclists by requiring bicycles to be made more readily visible.

A proposed amendment to road traffic regulations would make spoke reflectors and reflecting cycle tyre sidewalls mandatory.

Battery-powered rear lights must also be switched on in the dark — in addition to the dynamo-powered variety that can dim when the cyclist is forced to slow down.

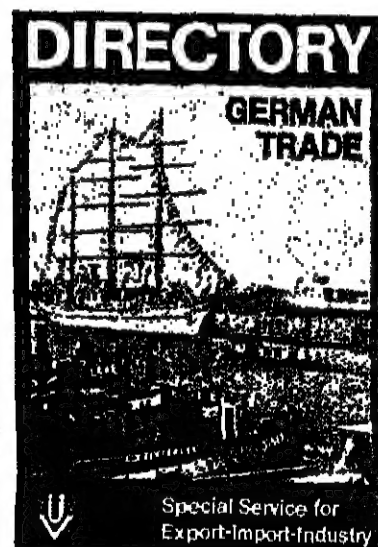
School buses are to undergo yearly roadworthiness tests, with special reference to safer doors. Herr Gscheidle is considering proposals of a special test for school bus drivers.

(Die Welt, 10 November 1979)

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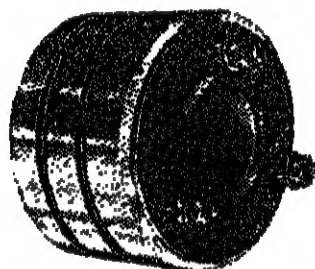
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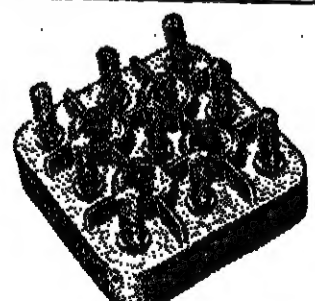
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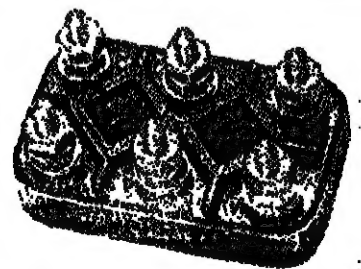
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This year shortwave radio in Germany celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. On 28 August 1929 ZEESEN shortwave station began regular transmissions. Together with the DEUTSCHLAND-SENDER it broadcast a selection of German broadcasting companies' programmes. That was the beginning of German shortwave and external broadcasts.

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THE CINEMA

Stories of childhood with universal appeal



The Children's Film Festival in Frankfurt this month showed children's films with a difference.

Most of them were not about mice and ducks, kittens and deer, princesses and dragon-slayers or even about adventures in space.

They were about children themselves, their fear, difficulties and dreams, relations with other children and with their parents.

The reality in which children live is taken seriously. Because the way we react to what happens to us in later life is decided when we are children.

And even when we are 50 or 60, our dreams are about the places and experiences of our childhood. Childhood fears and sorrows and joys are constantly being reproduced by our subconscious.

The Scandinavian and the socialist countries have long since realised how important it is that children should be able to recognise themselves in films.

They put large amounts of public money into subsidising children's films. And it was evident from the films in Frankfurt that West Germany is also putting more money into the children's film industry.

Of the 30 films from 12 countries on show in Frankfurt, five were from West Germany. Most came from Scandinavia. Unfortunately, there were no entries from the United States and Canada.

"Martin," by Gloria Behrens, a West German entry, tells the story of a 12-year-old who has had to live in a home since his parents' divorce and his mother's death.

This Bavarian children's home is, for a change, not depicted as a place of isolation and repression. Here Martin, with the help of a motherly social worker, manages to get rid of the resentments towards his father, whom he blames for the death of his beloved mother.

This difficult process is shown taking place between children who speak with a Bavarian dialect.

Martin is gradually reconciled to his father, a thick-skinned lorry driver who cares for him deep down. Martin, like all the psychological and realistic films shown here, has a happy ending, convincing, but not forced.

The Swedes are the masters of modern realistic films for children. "Elvis, Elvis," by Kay Pollack, is about a seven-year-old boy who is neglected by his mother because she thinks only of Elvis Presley.

Seeing an Elvis performance in Miami on her coloured TV is a high point in her life. And when Elvis sings one of his early hits, she simply melts away.

She has named her son after her idol but she cannot love her son. The son has withdrawn into himself and his own dream world because of his mother's dramatic changes of feeling.

Little Elvis seeks consolation with his grandparents and with children and adults who are a little bit crazy, like himself.

And he begins to get on better with his mother, whom he had previously hated and wanted dead — perhaps be-

cause he senses instinctively that his mother's changeability is due to his good-natured father's lack of sensitivity.

The problems of the little ersatz Elvis are presented so that children can easily understand them.

The Swedish film "Master Thief" — for children aged 11 and over — is more difficult. Two fatherless boys who live in a drab block of flats with their embittered mother seek adventure through petty theft.

Peter steals all the pocket calculators in his class and sells them on the street; he and his brother borrow a car; he takes a sausage from the food section of a department store.

We soon realise that 13-year-old Peter's gradually dying sense of what is his and what isn't is due to lack of love and to boredom. The boy's descent down the road to crime ends, as we might expect, in a police car.

It is a film where one has to explain things to children but which goes a good way towards explaining the complicated logic of psychological processes.

The films from the East Bloc countries try to make children more relaxed in the way they treat one another. In her film, "The Last Bench," Marta Kende, of Hungary, pleads for racial tolerance.

Gipsy girl Kati not only has to go to school and do her homework, she also has to take her mother's place, cook, clean and do the shopping. The other children in the school consider her dirty and different.

A teacher helps in the process of the child's integration. Kati proves to be a talented little singer and dancer.

The Bulgarian film "Talisman," by Rashko Ouzonov, tells of how 12-year-old schoolgirl Iskra, who has a strong sense of truth and fairness, gets into a conflict. She takes up the struggle against a teacher who protects her son, who behaves in an unconcerned way in the class.

Iskra learns a lesson

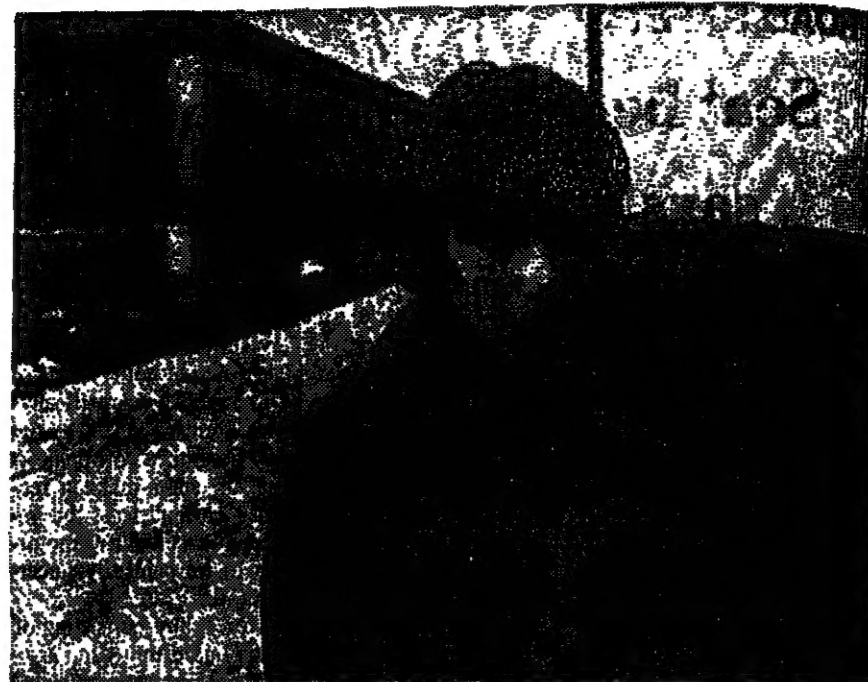
Iskra is deserted by the rest of the class, who previously shared her views. They do this out of opportunism. No one dares say anything against the teacher. Iskra has to learn that it is no use beating one's head against a brick wall.

The British present their film in the form of thrillers — and so they can be sure of having the children on their side. Richard Corliss gets 12-year-olds to act in the story of "Robin Hood," the robber who stole from the rich to give to the poor.

This turns out to be a good idea. The boys are imaginative enough to change effortlessly into wild horsemen and swingers of lasses, throwing tomatoes and eggs at wicked men of all kind. They use the drawbridge to enter the castle of the wicked uncle who is keeping young Mary prisoner and roll barrels together to trap and immobilise the heavily armed guards.

Like fleet-footed partisans or the

Continued on page 11



Gerhard Gundel as Martin in "The Last Days of Childhood."

(Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

Unadorned analysis of a youthful suicide

The more you admit, the better it will be for you," a policeman behind a desk explains to young Martin Sonntag, who is accused of a number of break-ins.

The representative of state order in Norbert Kückelmann's new film, "The Last Days of Childhood," gets his way. Martin, not yet 14, and therefore too young to be taken to court, makes a full confession.

For Martin, being sent to a borstal does not mean the beginning of a process of reintegration but long and painful suffering in many borstals, from which he constantly tries to escape.

He gets on well with a social worker in one borstal, but this relationship does not last long. The guardians of order seem to have been waiting till he reaches the age when he can answer for his offences in court.

Soon after his 14th birthday, Martin commits suicide in a prison. One can always run away, he tried to explain to a girl.

The starting point for Kückelmann was an authentic case. His film is the analysis of a suicide — and thus of a system, which must bear some of the guilt for this suicide.

Unlike many comparable, equally well-intentioned films, this one largely avoids rhetoric and relies on scenes, images, atmospheres and movement.

Kückelmann effortlessly reveals the futile order of the borstals, which serves no purpose but its own. The coldness of these institutions is what makes the boy constantly run away; escaping is his only means of communication.

The first scenes of the film show soulless apartment blocks in the background and in the foreground, building sites and rubbish tips. This is where, Martin, his brother and his friends live and play.

In a building site hut they have made themselves a cubby-hole; here a boy is looking for freedom and also security and warmth. The hiding place is not so much for the largely useless bits and pieces they have stolen, consumer goods from here or there. For Martin the place is more of a refuge.



Norbert Kückelmann in "The Last Days of Childhood."

Kückelmann convinces with his precise knowledge, which is never obtrusive. Martin's mother is taken for a ride in the Youth Office because the record of what she has said is written in the office's language and not in her own — a process which probably is part of the daily routine of all bureaucracies.

The arrogance of the authorities, their unshakable faith in their existence and norms, the mental hospital in which Martin is "calmed down" with drugs; the false tones of borstal directors and social workers, all aimed at destroying the desire for freedom — these are the reasons that finally lead to suicide.

His fate was not inevitable but the result of many specific experiences. How difficult and how easy it would have been to go in other directions is evident when we see the results when one social worker really tries to help Martin. But he, like his protégé, is rejected by the system, which refuses to accept the methods he uses.

An analytical account such as this inevitably consists of many individual motifs. It does not allow wide-ranging dramaturgy. Kückelmann has nonetheless succeeded in structuring his film clearly and describing the unstoppable process of the boy's destruction without filler.

"The Last Days of Childhood" affects the viewer so strongly because in many episodes the experiences and the shocked reactions of the director, the author and the actors are apparent. This is the only possible explanation of the compelling precision of the many lay scenes: this was the only way a balance could be kept between bitter rage and loving affection, between aggression and sadness.

Another positive aspect is the refreshing lack of false ambition: Kückelmann has succeeded in keeping his film free of the vanity of the director — and in this respect too he is an exception these days.

H.G. Pfundt

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 November 1979)

THE THEATRE

Question mark over the future of 1941 play



The premiere of Else Lasker-Schüler's dramatic poem "Ich und Ich" ("I and I") has been staged in the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus. The question now is whether further performances will be allowed. It is up to Manfred Sturmann, the trustee of the estate of Lasker-Schüler, whether "I and I" is to be released for general performance.

Much depends on the reaction to the Düsseldorf production. It is hoped that the response will persuade Herr Sturmann to give the go-ahead.

Rarely has a premiere been awaited with such expectation and hope.

The production, directed by Michael Gruner, was fashioned from the only copy of "I and I", an impulsive manuscript, illegible in many parts because of heavy correcting.

The draft was produced in 1941 and eventually published in the Yearbook of the German Schiller Society in 1970.

Originally, it was planned that Wuppertal, the writer's home town, should hold the premiere. But it was decided to present the Wuppertal version — a separate production — later.

The draft of "I and I" shows what a remarkable work we would have had if Else Lasker-Schüler had had the opportunity to correct and tighten it up before her death. Hans Rudolf Hilty has described the work as a "mysterious jewel."

Many people said that Karl Kraus's "The Last Days of Mankind" which many scenes of "I and I" resemble in their satirical structure — could not be performed — until Hans Hollmann's magnificent Basle production put an end to this prejudice.

Lasker-Schüler's apocalyptic "theatrical tragedy" with its many connections with

Continued from page 10

dream-warriors of Chinese films they fight and win.

Their laughter and cunning constantly triumph over the obtuseness of adults.

The same story in "The Poisoned Lake" by the same English director. Two boys find that the fish in a pond out in the country are dying. Their cat, fed with fish, dies also. And so the boys enter the prohibited zone of a poisonous waste dump.

Using cameras and walkie-talkies, they chase away a bunch of gangsters who use sinister lorries to transport chemicals and thus pollute their pond.

The police help the two amateur detectives who are afraid of no poisonous fumes, no slime and no crevasses.

All the films mentioned here have already found distributors. Children themselves will have to decide whether these thought-provoking films about their own lives interest them or not — after the expensive American space films which distract them from their own everyday reality.

Brigitte Jaramias

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Nr. Deutschland, 6 November 1979)

Dante's "Divine Comedy" and Goethe's "Faust" (his satirical-philosophical stage spectacle could almost be described as her "Faust III") is not only a reckoning with Nazi Germany but the prophetic invocation of its downfall.

It is the descent into hell of the Nazis, a Hell Play in which their split identity ("two souls dwell, at one in my breast") is related to individual figures of the action (Faust/Mephisto).

Lasker-Schüler melts the real and the unreal to bring about the triumph of God in Last Judgement over Satan, embodied by Goebbels and Hitler; but Faust and Mephisto are reconciled.

It is only possible to give a vague impression here of the dialogues which are poetically illuminated with "olden flashes" and parodied Goethe quotations.

Lasker-Schüler produces a fantastic "play within a play." On the proscenium of a Jerusalem state the author, her friend, the director Max Reinhardt, actor friends and audience gather.

East and West, past and present, the German middle ages and the barbarism of the Hitler era combine chemically and scenically in an apocalyptic witches' sabbath in which the Syrian god Baal, King David, Faust figures, Marthe Schwerdtlein, the devil of devils Goebbels, Hess and von Schirach, are all invited to a banquet in Mephisto's palace in hell.

Associations and allusions of often grotesque comedy abound (Auerbach's cellar, Marthe's garden with the cynical, Teis-à-teis between Goebbels and Marthe Schwerdtlein) and overwhelm the spectator like a calaract.

A strange quirk of history brought a Polish resistance hero Kazimierz Moczarski and former SS Gruppenführer and lieutenant-general of police Jürgen Stroop together in the same cell of Mokotów prison in Warsaw in 1949.

Acting on instructions from Himmler, Stroop had, in 1943, ordered the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto.

Dieter Kühn's "Talks with the Executioner" now being premiered at the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus, are a dramatised version of Moczarski's account of his conversations with Stroop.

Moczarski himself was in prison accused of being a fascist and a Gestapo agent. He was clearly innocent but the purpose of the exercise was to break his morale.

It was the Stalinist era. For nine months arch-enemies Moczarski and Stroop were cell-mates (as a resistance fighter Moczarski had taken part in an attempt on Stroop's life).

Moczarski did not do the Polish Government "by the grace of Stalin" the favour of confessing to being a traitor.

In 1952 Stroop was executed and Moczarski sentenced to death. The sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. In 1956, in the course of de-Stalinisation, Moczarski was rehabilitated.

Not until 1971, four years before his death, did Moczarski decide to write down his conversations with the executioner which had taken place 20 years before.

(A German version translated by Margita Weber was published by the Droste

Mephisto's Nazi guests sink shrieking in the mud of Orcus, crying out "Adolf, Adolf, why hast thou forsaken me?" At this point Hitler makes a determined entrance, meaning to annex hell to the Great German Reich. But he finds hell empty. In a long, silent procession devils and she-devils flee from the Nazis into the cloudy higher regions. This vision of a refugee trek in the shimmering reflections of transparent spaces is a contrast to the "Circus" underworld and also suggests graphically the ambivalence of the drama and the production by Gruner and his stage set designer, Uwe Oelkers. A high point of the performance: the decisive game on the giant chessboard with a white Christ and black devil figures, in which Mephisto, brilliantly played by Rüdiger Hacker, accuses his opponent Faust, the scientist, of guilt in his pact with Hitler.

Heinrich Ortmayr plays the Faust with an almost frenetic intensity. His "I bow down before him" is unforgettable.

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Odd cellmates in post-war Polish prison

Verlag, a year ago). A Polish dramatisation of the book was produced by Zygmunt Hübner.

The Warsaw production of this play by Andrzej Wajdas has been constantly sold out since 1978. The Polish play is tailor-made to the Polish situation and so theatre publishers S. Fischer asked German author Dieter Kühn ("Wolenski") to produce a German stage version.

The story could have been made into the play of the century; but Kühn's document consisting of selected dialogues and sticking closely to the text hardly provides any new information and contributes little to the characterisation of the main protagonists.

A transposition of the available material to make a theatre play — as Hochhuth, at least in part, succeeded in doing in "The Representative" — would have been more appropriate.

However in terms of the mastering of the past one can only wish that this dialogue play is seen by many.

In his book Moczarski gives a panorama of the Hitler era in order to describe Stroop's development as precisely as possible. The career of a little clerk in the Land Register office of the former Principality of Lippe-Deimold, who



A scene from "I and I"

(Photo: Lore Bernbach)

for compassion. However the after-piece is far too long and needs tightening up.

The well-read among the in part over-taxed audience applauded generously at the end of this play which, unfinished though it is, is full of flashes and colour.

It was all well worth the trouble. The ordeal of fire is over. Let us hope this play will now be made generally available.

Gerd Vielhaber

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 November 1979)

rose to be an SS Gruppenführer, Police Lieutenant-General and mass-murderer is like an open book before us.

Dieter Kühn can only show the cell in which the conversations took place.

Stroop distorts the facts, sometimes intentionally, sometimes because of the distance in time. However, the theatre-goer also analyses this confession from the viewpoint of Stroop's co-prisoner Moczarski, who seldom allows himself to be provoked by Stroop's words.

The situation is made somewhat eerie by the presence of a third, somewhat taciturn, prisoner: Gustaf Schilde, a former social democrat, is a "small" war criminal, who dissociates himself from Stroop and clearly sympathises with Moczarski.

As a result, the reckoning with the past acquires a deeper dimension.

The audience sits around the prison cell, designed by Mechthild Schwenhorst, — as if it was in the dock. The production is directed by Michael Degen, whose personal commitment to the subject is evident.

His accentuation of Stroop's wordy reminiscences manages to transform the whole into a drama after all. Wolfgang Arps, in the role of the executioner, succeeds brilliantly in avoiding a black and white image and presenting an ordinary German, typical of our Nazi past: guilty because he carries out orders, the scope of which he does not fully understand.

Wolf-Dietrich Garg is the ideal actor to portray the position of the Polish democrat, Moczarski. Wilhelm Unger (Frankfurter Neue Presse, 8 November 1979)

The issue of comprehensive schooling tends to separate parents into sharply divided camps. And not only in Germany.

Comprehensives are based on the same model whether they are in Britain or Denmark, and the same arguments for and against are being argued just as passionately in those countries.

But comprehensive schools are not identical, of course. A Hamburg comprehensive is not the same as one in Hesse; the Lower Saxony model varies from its Bavarian equivalent.

It is these differences that cause confusion among the many parents who are not clear of the issues involved.

In the comprehensive school idea there is a strange combination of educational good sense and ideological idiosyncrasy.

The first educational advantage is: comprehensives don't limit the later professional options of children at the age of 10.

As things are now, acceptance or rejection for grammar school is a decision which affects career prospects many years later.

The second advantage: all talents and capacities considered useful to the individual or to society are encouraged, regardless of whether a pupil is talented or not so able.

For example, grammar schools for a long time rated Greek and Latin more highly than physics and chemistry.

That doesn't apply any more.

The third educational argument in favour is that we don't want the struggle for existence to begin already at school. This involves the pressure of marks, the pressure of making the next class make happy children into unhappy little forced labourers.

Here the reformers were out of luck. While they were dreaming of schools free of fear and thought their dreams were plans, the universities had to protect themselves against crippling overcrowding and introduced the numerus clausus system whereby in certain subjects only the pupils with the highest marks have a chance of admission.

This created pressure to achieve high marks and competitiveness in the schools the like of which had never before been seen.

Now the first point of ideological idiosyncrasy: Society must be changed and the schools are an instrument for changing society. When two abstractions — society and change — are brought into conjunction with a moral appeal (must) schools find themselves facing a problem with which they are totally unable to cope.

Schools have never brought about the desired society, it was always societies

■ EDUCATION

Opinions sharply divided on comprehensive schools

(states, churches, parties) which produced the schools they wanted.

Ideological idiosyncrasy, point 2: where 50 per cent of the population are workers, then 50 per cent working class children must be found in the best schools and the fairest way of doing this is to do away with the "best" schools.

However, there are good reasons for wishing that ministers, generals and doctors should be taught at the best schools.

Ideological idiosyncrasy, point 3: the vertical school system — secondary modern school, technical school and grammar school, is anti-social and should be replaced by a horizontal system: primary grade, secondary grade 1, secondary grade 2.

This means making bad worse: to ensure that richer and poorer children are taught together, younger and older children are torn apart.

Of course it is true that what may seem ideological idiosyncrasy to a liberal may be exactly right and desirable in the eyes of a consistent socialist. However, he must not be surprised if in *Länder* where consistent socialists are in the minority, other school systems predominate.

Politicians concerned with education have for some time talked of (red) A-Länder and (black) B-Länder. Another iron curtain through the German school scene.

This would have unwelcome consequences. It would make mobility for example even more difficult.

The idea that all schools should be the same is a strange dream and to many more like a nightmare. There are at the moment several different ways of arriving at the same educational goals: elementary leaving certificate, ordinary level, advanced level. As long as these certificates are documents of entitlement for instance to a civil service career or to admission to a university, then achievements should be comparable for the sake of fairness.

The idea of an election campaign in which one side insists on the comprehensive and the other on the grammar school system is appalling. There is bound to be even more generalisation than in such a short account as this. And there, unlike here, the generalisations will be tendentious.

On the one hand we will hear of the terrible stress in the grammar schools as if it were an essential element of these schools and, on the other hand, of experiments at our children's expense, as if the comprehensive school, tried and tested for over 30 years in Scandinavia, the USA and Great Britain and for 10 years here, had not long since proved its worth.

Academics in North Rhine-Westphalia recently published a study which merely confirmed the experience of other countries: comprehensive schools are better for late developers, the practically gifted, the less theoretically gifted. Intellectual high-fliers do better at grammar schools.

Now most people are not high fliers. It must therefore be surprising that the SPD, in the *Länder* where it rules, has so frightened the voters — first in Hesse, then in North Rhine-Westphalia, then in Hamburg — that North Rhine-Westphalia Prime Minister Johannes Rau, the best informed of all the *Länder* Prime Ministers on this subject, is careful not to do anything for comprehensive schools before the election.

The SPD's failure to persuade large sections of the population of the benefits of the comprehensive school is not only the result of awkwardness.

From the secondary modern school perspective, the comprehensive school is an excellent thing, but far less so from the grammar school perspective.

Social democratic politicians also realise this but they are reluctant to opt for secondary modern schools. Otherwise they could argue along these lines: for four years all children are together — so why shouldn't they stay together in the fifth, the eighth or the 13th school year? We want the real people's school which leads to every profession!

No one could accuse Hamburg Education Senator Grolle of wicked intentions. But this unfortunate individual wants to install a comprehensive school on the site of a grammar school, of all places (and immediately there are those who say: "We knew all along, the socialists want to destroy the grammar school!")

To avoid complicated legal disputes, he declared the comprehensive school a "regular school form" (instead of "a school like any other.") One lawyer took

this to mean that from now on a comprehensive school would be the *reguläre* and the secondary modern, technical or grammar school the exception.

And how are people without degrees in law to understand it better. But we seriously encourage them to understand it differently. There are some educationists who mean precisely this in the long term the comprehensive school will be the rule and in exceptional cases we will tolerate grammar schools. If this is not the dominant in the party, it is high time this is said, loud and clear.

In our opinion, even with pupils numbers falling, comprehensives, second moderns, technical schools, grammar schools, special schools, vocational schools and private schools should exist alongside one another and compete with one another.

This problem can be solved in the cities. In the country it is difficult, not insoluble, given good will: a problem of logistics, as the strategic separation of distance between school and home, school lunches, of what can reasonably be expected of pupils and teachers.

It sometimes seems that the *BRD*, which bears the word liberal in its arms — and without liberalism a school of any kind can flourish — is the most reasonable educational policy.

Verbally this is certainly true: it avoids using the word comprehensive school wherever possible and promises us the "open" school. If it would not to us precisely what this open school and where it differs from the "social comprehensive school" we would let step further.

An election campaign in which the choice between grammar and comprehensive schools were a central issue would, with its necessarily simplified slogans, distort all the essential points.

Comprehensives can be excellent: grammar schools can be dreadful. A civilised society will always need schools for the exceptionally gifted and for completely irrelevant what these schools are called.

The quality of a school does not depend on its name nor on its educational form.

The following factors decide quality: 1. How good the teachers are. 2. The curriculum. 3. The materials available. 4. Size of classes.

We favour — and in this we agree with most ministers of education — comprehensive schools that do not wish to kill off the grammar school as a grammar school which is in no way arrogant towards the comprehensive.

Rudolf Walter Leonhardt
(Die Zeit, 9 November 1979)

■ OUR WORLD

Biology expert's bid for university place fails

When Günther Zupanc was 15 years old (he is now 21) he wrote a research paper on "The behaviour of Fish of the Cichlidae Family."

It was well-enough researched to win the southern Bavaria prize and was ultimately the second-placed entry for the whole of Bavaria.

He has written other authoritative pieces on a variety of biological subjects including the mottled perch fish and has won a prize in a European competition for research and invention.

Not terribly remarkable? Perhaps not, except that Herr Zupanc is barred from studying biology at university because his marks are not good enough.

Biology is one of those subjects that comes under the so-called *numerus clausus* (which restricts admission for secondary school graduates with graduation marks below a specific average).

Herr Zupanc graduated with an average of 3.2, which bars him from studying biology at university.

In an effort to reverse this decision, he applied to the Centre for the Assignment of University Places (ZVS) on the grounds of exceptional hardship.

His application was turned down with the computerised statement: "You have failed to prove that you would have achieved a better average if the reason given by you had not existed."

The reason he gave was that he had been continuously engaged in behavioural research for the past six years.

Herr Zupanc substantiated this claim with a 150-page study, saying that this accounted for the two "fours" he had in Latin and Greek, and that it was these subjects that brought his average down.

At the age of 15 he participated in a scientific contest dubbed "Secondary School Students Experiment".



Günther Zupanc
(Photo: Fred Schöllhorn)

Not only was he the best Bavarian participant, but he also progressed to the competition "Youth Researches", normally open only to older students, where he became the regional winner for southern Bavaria and later runner-up for the entire state.

His subject was "The Behaviour of Fish of the Cichlidae Family".

This type of fish remained the subject of further studies. The first essay was followed by a comparative analysis entitled "Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum — An Ethology and Comparative Studies of Other Cichlidae". This again earned him a position among Bavaria's best in "Youth Researches".

Later, Herr Zupanc wrote a popular report on the mottled perch and its aggression patterns, which he submitted to

the journalistic contest "Reporters of Science" in 1976.

In the same year, he took part in the "Philips European Contest for Young Researchers and Inventors" in which he was awarded the second prize.

And in 1977 he was the best German in the Philips competition, receiving a prize of 5,000 francs.

The "special hardships" he mentioned in his application also included participation in scientific congresses.

Günther Zupanc has been awarded 14 national and international prizes — the last one for a film on "Life in a Coral Reef" which he made together with a friend.

The principal of his school confirmed all this. Father Johannes Lettner of the Humanistic St. Stephens Gymnasium in Augsburg told ZVS in a letter that Herr Zupanc was "deeply involved in behavioural research and that this evidently affected his performance in the language subjects."

But even this failed to make ZVS reverse its decision. The organisation is not concerned with circumstances but with regulations. And these state that the national winner of "Youth Researches" may be admitted to university even if his marks are below the required average, but this does not apply to the runner-up — and hence to Herr Zupanc.

As to the Philips contest, where he was the winner, this is not included in the ZVS guidelines.

The principal's letter cannot be taken into account because the ZVS recognises only psychological and not educational criteria in dealing with "special hardships".

Social Democrat MPs in Bonn piloted the ZVS decision as a "scandal" and an example of "bureaucratic bungling". But their effort to help came too late because the file was already closed.

Meanwhile, the chairman of ZVS, Hartmut Jaekel, has announced that he intends to introduce a "genius clause" to prevent Germany's meagre university research from losing more people like Günther Zupanc.

Michael Schwellen
(Die Zeit, 9 November 1979)



Jörg Andreas Elten

Opting out — with a little luxury

Jörg Andreas Elten, star reporter of the illustrated magazine *Stern*, ranked among the top earners in his field before he found his guru in India and was converted to a philosophy of love-thy-neighbour and self-denial.

Today, the man who joined the Bhagwan's group is back in Hamburg.

He has come to take leave of his home city before going to India for good to serve the love guru in his temple.

Herr Elten (now Swami Satiananda) takes a daily walk along the shores of the Alster River, only a few yards from the home of friends with whom he is staying, surrounded by the luxury of the old days.

Asked if he did not think it was a pity to leave all this, Herr Elten says: "Bhagwan asked me to do it."

Born in 1927, Herr Elten attended a Nazi elite school. He was a soldier during the war. On returning home, he began his journalistic career.

Together with a couple of friends, he founded the magazine *Ruf* in 1947 — in those days the most disrespectful publication of occupied Germany.

In 1956 he became the Middle East reporter of *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and in 1964 he joined *Stern*.

He was divorced in 1971, two years before the oil crisis. This shook him up and he realised that things could not continue as they were.

Man's consciousness must be changed, he said to himself. Five years later, he met the guru and felt that he had arrived.

Herr Elten has written a book on opting out of our society ("Totally Relaxed Here and Now") for which he is drumming up sales — a bit over-zealously perhaps.

Asked why he so eagerly promotes his book, since worldly possessions mean nothing to him anymore, Herr Elten strokes his long beard and adjusts his legs in the lotus position.

And although the question is not new to him, the answer is long in coming. Flanked by two young girls, members of Hamburg's Bhagwan community, he waits until one of them poses lithely to serve a gin and tonic, accompanied by the rich sound of an expensive hi-fi set, before finally answering:

"My book is to make people a bit more contented... to bring a bit more laughter and dancing, a bit more love."

Joachim Lottmann
(Die Welt, 15 November 1979)

When Carl reaches for his water bottle, no sticker is safe

for Hamburg History. They will shortly be sent on a tour of the country.

Apo (extra-parliamentary opposition), the student movement of the sixties, used hand-made stickers in promoting its cause and rallying support for demonstrations against America's involvement in Vietnam or the emergency laws passed by Bonn. It was a cheap way of spreading their ideas and, above all, it was independent of the established media.

In the years to come, popular topics were the socialist slogans in connection with the 1 May Labour Day, protests against the Vietnam War, against dictatorship in Greece and the Shah of Iran. Today's stickers protest against military dictatorship in Latin America.

During the 1972 parliamentary election campaign, our political parties still used stickers rather hesitantly.

Typical examples were: "Follow the Prices: Run Away from the SPD" or just a plain: "I'm for Willy".

Then came the tide of stickers in the wake of the so-called RAF (Red Army Faction), such as "Against Isolation Torture", "Against Career Bann" and "Against the New Abortion Laws".



Carl Wendorf
(Photo: Wolfgang Steghe)

This was followed by the ecology wave with slogans like "No Vacation Where Birds Are Being Killed". The first anti-nuke stickers came towards the end of 1974.

In the 1976 election campaign the

Continued on page 14

Jörg Andreas Elten



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